

HB- 5257 Testimony

An Act Concerning Reports of Abuse or Neglect of Persons with Intellectual Disability or Autism Spectrum Disorder

Human Services Committee

March 8, 2016

Senator Moore, Senator Markley, Representative Abercrombie and other esteemed members of the Human Services Committee, I am Win Evarts, the Executive Director of the Arc of Connecticut. I am here to voice support for HB 5257, An Act Concerning Reports of Abuse or Neglect of Persons with Intellectual Disability or Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The shortened time period for mandatory reporters to contact the Department of Developmental Services, the agency in charge of Abuse and Neglect investigation is anticipated to help increase the ability to save the individual alleging and/or suffering abuse or neglect from additional harm, increase the quality of details concerning the circumstances surrounding the incidence, and decrease the number of incidences of abuse and neglect over the long term.

Assuming that the goal of the bill is to improve the speed and accuracy of abuse and neglect reporting from professions identified, it should be acknowledged that 24 hours is a measure that requires that successful reporting be easily accomplished. Therefore, a clear definition of successful notification (voice contact, telephone message, and/or email message), as well as the identification of the specific parties who constitute successful reporting. As an example, "... the commissioner, the commissioner's designee, and/or the regional or other resources clearly identified on the DDS website for reporting alleged abuse and neglect."

Thank you for the opportunity to voice support of HB 5257. Thank you also for your efforts to improve the lives of people in Connecticut's.

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